Docket No.: RICE-1003US

REMARKS

Preliminary to the Examination of the above-identified application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

The specification and abstract have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. Figure 3 has been amended to correct the spelling of the word, "successive." The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependent claims.

Favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Date: Willow

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Dunleary

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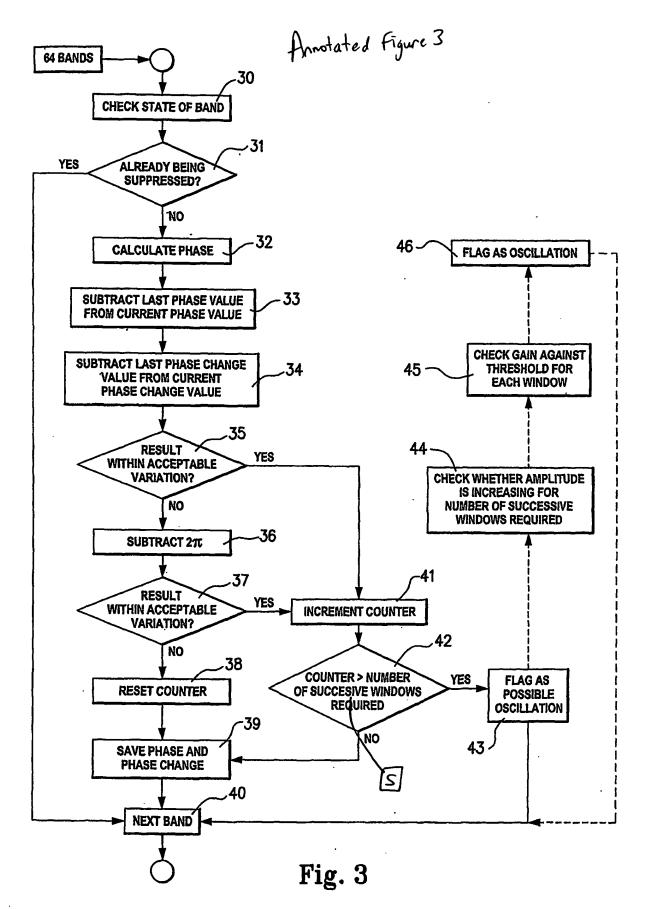
e-mail: kjdunleavy@patentwise.com

Attachments: Annotated version of Figure 3,

... Replacement sheet 2/4 of the drawings,

... Substitute specification, and

... Substitute abstract.



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26) RO/AU